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1885 Hongkong, 7th March, 1885.

men who did not desire to be seen

might be loyally disposed towards the Empire. As Prince Napoleon had developed unorthodox views about religion, he was asked to become the patron of free-thinkers and free-lances—men like Sainte-Beuve, Ernest Renan, Emile de Girardin, and Emile Ollivier. He did succeed in rallying these men, and for a time there were some very pleasant parties at the Palais Royal, the Prince discharging his duties with grace and tact, his guests

that, however outspoken their
might be even on politics they

[illegible]